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Saving a National Treasure

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September 7, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Chesapeake Bay Foundation and our more than 240,000 members. We rely on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our members regularly. Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, as a consequence, so would our Bay Saving mission.

We simply do not understand why suddenly there is a need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed here by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to do the great work that we do. Respectfully, I ask you to consider this consequence.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago. We see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail.

Sincerely,

Amelia Koch
Director of Membership